

AN
E S S A Y
ON
HEMLOCK.

WHEREIN,

From a Variety of Cases, the Efficacy of this
Plant, in the Cure of Cancers and other
obstinate Diseases, is fully demonstrated.

Antoni Barmen
By DR. A. STORK,

One of the principal Physicians to the Empress
Queen,

Newly translated from the LATIN;

By F. H. Physician.



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of Boston.

(H. b. 1815 & 1854.)

P R E F A C E.

 HERE are many diseases which have baffled the skill of the most eminent physicians, both antient and modern: no medicine having been hitherto discovered of force sufficient to subdue them.

It is therefore equally consistent with reason and with our duty to employ our utmost endeavour to find out such a medicine.

May it not possibly happen that something of this kind may lie concealed in plants, with whose virtues we are unacquainted, or which perhaps are considered as dangerous?

For my own part, I flatter myself, that from a trial of hemlock I have hit upon a medicine, which may be highly serviceable in resolving inveterate schirrusses, and curing cancers.

It is not however here my intention to over-rate the specific power of this plant, or to challenge the honour of any new discovery. All I desire is, that

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my labours may contribute to the general advantage and relief of the afflicted.

I should be sorry, therefore, if any person, from pride or envy, should endeavour to prevent its being fairly tried.

This essay is divided into three chapters: the first contains a description of the plant, and the medicine prepared from it: the second recites the cases in which this medicine has been administered; and in the third are laid down several practical inferences.

CHAP.

CHAPTER I.

IN shady places, where the soil is rich; and near hedges, ditches, and the fences of fields and meadows; grows an umbelliferous plant, which flowers in the month of July. Its leaves, which spring from long thick hollow footstalks, are divided by various sections in the manner of sweet cicely (*myrrbis*), into many slender wings of a deep green colour. The stalk, which is tall, ferulaceous, smooth, light, thick, hollow within, and of a pale green colour, but variegated with red spots like a snake, rises frequently to the height of between four and five feet. At the top are umbels; on which grow little white flowers; that are succeeded by seeds resembling those of anise, but somewhat whiter. The root, which is about nine inches in length, and of the thickness of a finger, is hollow when it sends forth a stalk, but till then solid. The smell is disagreeable and foetid. See *Morison*, vol. 3. p. 290.

Botanists have named this plant *cicuta vulgaris*; in English it is called HEMLOCK.

Pliny relates, that the green stalks of hemlock were eaten by many without the least injury.

Ray tells us, that a person of the name of *Bowles* gave

gave the root of hemlock, to the quantity of a scruple, in malignant and quartan fevers; and preferred it to all diaphoretics.

Renealmus, in observation third and fourth, administered a scruple, or half a dram, of hemlock in substance, for the resolving of the *schirrus* of the liver, spleen, and *pancreas*; or gave an infusion made with a dram or two of the root of it.

The juice of hemlock enters the composition of several officinal plasters and ointments.

Excepting in these instances, it is branded by almost all authors; ranked among the poisons; condemned; and of course wholly banished out of medicinal practice.

It is found plentifully every where: yet has neither any use or place in gardens; nor is at present even applied to the healing cattle, much less to the curing men.

Hence it is always produced in vain; and withers again without having answered any purpose.

We all know, however, that nothing has been created by God, which was not designed for some good, and use.

From this consideration, I was determined to examine the virtues of this herb preferably to all others; and, accordingly consulted many of the antient and modern writers on the subject.

In the course of my reading, I found, that this plant, more especially in antient times, had been used, with great success, externally applied, to discuss cold tumours, resolve schirruses, and mitigate the pains attending cancers.

All

All, however, agreed in exclaiming against it as a most deleterious poison, when given internally.

The first attempt was, therefore, to be made in the external use.

Accordingly I sewed up this herb dried, and cut, in a bag, betwixt two pieces of linen, in the manner of quilting. This bag I let remain in boiling water for some minutes : and then, having pressed out the superfluous fluid, I applied it warm to the parts affected.

By this method I sometimes stopt the progress of the worst gangrenes ; and procured a separation of the mortified part from the sound.

To those who could not bear, on account of the disagreeable stink, and the itching produced by them, the bags that were boiled in water, I applied others boiled in milk.

These they bore easily, without feeling any inconvenience from them ; but all, on the contrary, found relief.

In the case of a man, sixty years of age, for many years afflicted with the gout, I not only in a short time allayed the pains ; but intirely softened and dispersed the gouty concretions.

Hence also, when the fits returned, they were neither so violent, nor lasted so long.

In rheumatisms of long standing, and in the gout, I gave great ease to some patients, and wholly freed others, by the pill, hereafter described, and the hemlock fomentation.

I failed, nevertheless, of doing service to some,

even by a long continued course : but I did not, that I know of, do the least harm to any.

In schirrous strumas, indurations of the glands, and breasts, and very bad cancers, I experienced very considerable effects.

But in the case of tumours, that are inflammatory, or arise from hot humours, the hemlock fomentation is less proper.

It may, notwithstanding, be of some service even in these cases, provided due evacuations be previously made.

Plasters, which have the juice of hemlock in their composition, are also very useful in medicine ; often resolving and dispersing what resists all others.

I began from thence to doubt, whether this resolving, penetrating, discutient power of hemlock, might not reside in the juice of it.

I, therefore, expressed the juice from this herb ; and evaporated it with a very gentle heat, in an earthen vessel, to the consistence of an extract.

It would have been unjustifiable to have made the first trial of this extract on men. I therefore gave a scruple of it, with a piece of flesh, three times a day, to a little dog that was hungry.

I then watched carefully, what changes might be produced in him.

He continued, nevertheless, brisk and well, waiting with eagerness for the morsel of flesh.

On giving the same quantity the second day, I found no difference in the effects.

Nor even on the third could I observe any bad symptom in him.

Encouraged

Encouraged by this, I made the experiment on myself.

I took morning and evening one grain of this extract; and drank a cup-full of tea after it.

I was very careful as to diet, that I might the easier perceive if any change should happen from the medicine.

I continued this dose for eight days, without being sensible of the least inconvenience from it. I was active and strong; had my memory perfect; enjoyed a good stomach; and slept soundly.

The next week I increased the dose; and took then, morning and evening, two grains: neither from thence did I perceive any bad or uncommon effect.

I was, therefore, now justified, in reason and conscience, to try this on others.

I was desirous, however, to know likewise what virtue resides in the root of the hemlock.

From the fresh root, when cut into slices, oozes out a milk; which is acrid and bitter to the taste.

I rubbed a small drop or two of this milk on the end of my tongue. It presently became stiff; swelled; and was very painful: and soon after I lost the power of speaking.

This unlucky event alarmed me very much.

I recollected, however, from what I had met with in reading, that acids counteract the powers of such simples; and abate their virulence.

I therefore washed my tongue all over with the juice of a lemon; and rubbed the end with it: af-

ter which I immediately felt great ease; the pains and tension went off; and I was able to stammer.

I repeated the same a quarter of an hour after, and then began to speak more freely.

The juice being thus applied several times more; in about two hours, my tongue regained its liberty, and all my apprehensions vanished.

May it not from this instance be reasonably inferred, that the strongest poison resides in the milky juice of the root?

When, however, the root is dried, and reduced to powder, it becomes less noxious: for I have taken a grain, or sometimes even two, of such powder, without any ill consequence.

After having made these trials, I prepared the following pills.

Take of the fresh hemlock, what quantity you please: express the juice; and let it be inspissated, while fresh, with a gentle heat, in an earthen vessel (often stirring it, lest it burn) to the consistence of a thick extract. Let this extract be formed, with as much of the powder of the leaves as may be necessary, into a mass for pills: from which, let them be made of two grains each.

If the juice be expressed from hemlock, previously boiled for some time in a sufficient quantity of water, it will then make an extract less efficacious; but yet of some virtue.

The pills may be gilded, or rolled in some proper powders, that the disagreeable smell may be concealed.

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The same extract may otherwise be administered in bolusses, mixtures, or any convenient form; lest the patients may be disgusted with the continual use of the pills; and nauseate them.

I always began with a very small dose, giving only at first one pill morning and evening. On the third or fourth day, I repeated the same pill three times.

After eight days, I began to give two pills thrice every day; and, by increasing in this proportion, I gradually rose (if occasion required it) till I came to a dram, or a dram and a half, in the space of twenty-four hours.

Though I have given these pills, for a year or two, or more, without intermission, even to persons in health, I never observed they did any harm.

In my later practice, I have constantly entered on the cure with a greater dose: and, where there seemed to be a good habit and sufficient strength, I have given even at first two, three, or four pills, twice or thrice a day.

It is, notwithstanding, always best, to begin with a small quantity: for there are particular constitutions, in which medicines otherwise extremely innocent, are hurtful. Hence, that we may avoid doing mischief in such cases, and in order gradually to attain the knowledge of the peculiar habit of these patients, it is best to proceed in the most safe way.

Each time the pills are taken, a basin of tea, or of veal broth, should be also given after them.

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If the powder of the root of hemlock, be made into pills, with a sufficient quantity of the mucilage of gum tragacanth, a medicine is produced of great efficacy; but which requires greater circumspection in the use of it.



C H A P. II.

C A S E I.

A Very beautiful girl had for three years the left parotid intirely schirrous; of a purple colour; and sometimes acutely painful, though at other times free from all uneasiness. The tumour exceeded a man's fist in size.

Various remedies, as well internal as external, were administered by different physicians and surgeons: but proved all ineffectual.

At length the patient applied to Mr. *Leber*, surgeon of the city hospital; and he called me into consultation with him.

The case, and the former prescriptions being duly examined, it appeared that medicines highly resolvent and discutient, had been used, as well internally as externally.

We concluded, therefore, that nothing of this kind remained to be tried, except malt spirit, and mercury sublimate.

Accordingly, a plaster of labdanum being externally applied, we gave the malt spirit, &c. and ordered

dered the patient besides to drink plentifully of the decoction of the roots of grals, garden succory, dandelion, &c.

After taking these, with the greatest regularity, for three weeks, we did not perceive the least benefit, nor even the least alteration.

We determined, therefore, to try the pills prepared from hemlock.

I began with giving only one grain morning and evening; to be washed down each time with a cupfull, or two, of the infusion of the flowers of elder.

At the end of eight days, the patient returned much pleased: and with great satisfaction showed us the tumour reduced in its size, softer, and more moveable.

Surprised with the effect, we readily agreed, that the patient, who was extremely solicitous to recover her beauty, should continue the medicine.

At the end of another week, she came again to us; but the disorder was nearly in the same state.

On this account, I increased the dose; and gave two pills, morning and evening.

In consequence of which, within three days after, the indurated part was more than half diminished.

The same dose of the medicine being continued, all the hardness went off in six weeks.

There remained, nevertheless, a flaccid doughy sac.

I therefore administered a purge; and ordered the flaccid bag to be rubbed very often with cloths, impregnated with aromatic fumes of mastic, olibanum, myrrh, &c. which answered so well, that in
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about six days the fac quite disappeared; by which means, the girl entirely regained her former beauty.

I carried her, thus cured, to the illustrious president *Van Swieten*; and she herself related to him the whole history of the case.

C A S E II.

A Woman (about thirty years of age) had, for several years, been subject to swellings of the glands, which came sometimes in the arm-pits, sometimes in the groin, and sometimes in the neck.

At first, on the application of a plaster, and taking a purge, these swellings always disappeared; but, afterwards, they became more obstinate; and sometimes, on the use of plasters, turned into ulcers: which, after a copious discharge of ichorous matter, in a few weeks healed again of themselves.

The strength of the patient gradually diminished; the feet and the axillary glands swelled: and, at length, the left breast enlarged also, and became intirely schirrous.

Soon after the application of a plaster, an acute pain seized the breast; the hardness degenerated into tubercles: a purple colour came on, which changed afterwards to a livid; and, at last, the skin, breaking in two places with the greatest pain, formed two cancerous ulcers, discharging a most foetid, and acrid ichor.

The pain always grew worse towards the evening.

The patient consulted several physicians and surgeons; and took many medicines; but did not ever find any relief.

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At last, on the fourteenth of September 1757, she came to me: on carefully considering her case, I thought it a very favourable opportunity for trying the hemlock pills: I administered, accordingly, every morning and evening, two pills, of one grain each, giving her also an infusion of the leaves of the male speedwell to be drunk after them.

The twenty-second of September, I perceived that the livid was almost every where changed into a favourable red; and thence into the natural colour: the pains were much easier; and a thin purulent matter appeared in the place of the *ichor*.

On the second of October, the colour of almost the whole breast was natural; the bulk, and hardness were less; the pains slight; and the matter good.

The fourteenth of October, the breast again began to swell; becoming red, hard, and exceeding painful: while, instead of *pus*, an *ichor* was discharged.

I was sorry at the ill success of this trial; but did not however give up all hopes; for on a stricter inquiry I found, that the time of her *menfes* approached, which might, I conjectured, occasion her growing worse; I advised her therefore still to persist in the use of the pills.

The next day the *menfes* came on; the swelling of the breast went off; the natural colour returned; and the pains were diminished: on which account the patient persevered willingly in the course.

On the twenty-fourth day of October, I found the breast much less, as well as softer; with the
matter

matter good : and I directed, that now she should take three pills, every morning and evening.

On the third of November there was a copious discharge of good *pus* from the ulcer ; the breast was less ; the patient felt frequent tinglings in it ; and the tumours in the right arm-pit began also to be dispersed.

The nineteenth of November, the patient informed me, that she had had the *menfes* at the regular period : and that then her breast swelled again, and greater pains came on ; but that, not alarmed by this, she had always continued the pills.

When I saw the breast, I found the part above the nipple almost of the natural softness, and magnitude ; but the part below it, hard as a stone. I therefore gave then four pills morning and evening.

The second of December, the patient returned to me dispirited ; and complaining, that she could not sleep on account of very acute pains in the night ; that her appetite was wholly gone ; her mouth bitter and clammy ; and that she had frequent foetid belchings.

But, at the same time, she confessed what had occasioned these symptoms. For she acknowledged, that a few days before she had eaten bacon, smoke-dried, and cabbage badly boiled ; and that thence the weight in the stomach and the *nausea* had been produced ; and the pains increased.

I prescribed, for this reason, a purge consisting of two scruples of choice rhubarb, and one scruple of cream of tartar : which gave five stools ; soon re-

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stored the appetite; and mitigated the other symptoms.

After this, I administered every morning and evening five pills, of two grains each: so that she now took a much larger quantity than before.

On the eighteenth of December, the patient told me, that, in the time of the *menfes*, she had scarcely felt any pain; and that the breast had remained of its natural colour.

On examining the tumour in the arm-pit, I felt, that it was much less, and very moveable. The ulcers were clean, and seemed disposed to heal; the pus they discharged was small in quantity, and perfectly good in colour and consistence. The half of the breast above the nipple was intirely of its natural colour, size, and softness; but the half below it, resisting all means, remained of a stony hardness, whence there seemed hardly any probability of discussing it. The patient, however, sensible of the great benefit she had received, promised that she would regularly persevere in a constant use of the pills, and intreated me to let her have them.

I now gave her six pills every morning and evening.

The twenty-fourth of December, the patient felt extreme pain in the breast; which again began to grow red and hard.

But she observed, that these bad symptoms had happened, by the ulcers of the breast, about three days before, being encrusted over with a thick scurf, by which the free discharge of the matter had been obstructed.

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In order, therefore, to soften it, I applied a plaster of *sperma ceti*.

The next day the scabs fell off; and an acrid serous humour flowed from the ulcers, succeeded by *pus*: and soon after the swelling of the breast grew less; the redness disappeared, and all the pain went off.

The twenty-fifth of January, the hardness below the nipple, which till this time had remained unchanged, began now to be discussed; the patient had no pain; and the *menfes* returned at the regular period, without occasioning any bad symptom.

The third of February, the patient complained of continual belchings, and *nausea*; great anxiety; and more violent pains in her breast: and said she always felt the same when she eat garden-stuff. I found, nevertheless, with regard to size, colour, and softness, the breast was the same as on the fifteenth of January.

Concluding her stomach was overloaded with what she had eaten, I gave her a purge; which operated briskly: and afterwards the course of pills was continued.

On the twenty-fourth of February, the patient was in good health; the *schirrus* in the arm pit was much less; and the hard part below the nipple of the breast, was found to be much softer, and divided into six small lumps. It afforded me great satisfaction, to perceive, that this *schirrus*, which had been hitherto most obdurate, suffered at last a change.

The thirteenth of March, I found every thing in the same state, without the least alteration. I advised,

vised, therefore, that she should then take six pills thrice every day.

The tenth of April, the *schirrus* below the nipple was become soft, nor could the small lumps be any more distinguished; the ulcers were much smaller, appeared clean, and discharged good matter.

The twenty-ninth of April, matters were nearly in the same condition: and the patient desired, that I would order her a purge; because she felt some weight and *nausea*.

I gave her, therefore, one dram of rhubarb; which brought away a great quantity of bilious matter; after which she found herself well.

The twenty-fourth of May, the breast regained nearly its natural softness and size; the ulcers began to close; and only a little *pus*, of a perfectly good colour and consistence, was discharged. The tumour in the arm-pit was very small.

On the third of July, the whole breast was in its natural state; the ulcers were healed up; the tumour in the arm-pit scarcely equalled the size of a pea.

I now directed her to leave off taking the pills at present; and to return to me again in a few weeks, that I might observe whether the breast continued well, or again altered for the worse.

The twenty-sixth of August, I found every thing right; and the woman in perfect health.

At the time I first undertook the cure, afterwards at the expiration of five months, and again when she was perfectly recovered, I took this woman with me to the illustrious Baron *Van Swieten*; that he might see the whole progress of the experiment;

experiment; with which he always expressed great satisfaction: and, from his generous disposition, always gave the patient money.

C A S E III.

A Woman, twenty-four years of age, in all other respects healthful, found about a year before, in her right breast, a small lump, that was hard, and moveable. It gradually increased however in such manner, that, on the twelfth of October 1758, when she called me, it equalled the size of a goose's egg.

I perceived, on examination, that it was a real *scirrhus*.

Upon which I gave her every morning and evening, three pills, of two grains each: and I directed, that she should drink after them an infusion of whatever was most agreeable to her.

On the twenty-fifth of October, she came again to me: and I found the tumour softer, and somewhat less. She asked me, if it was not proper to apply a plaster: but I would not consent, as I was desirous to try what the pills alone could effect: and advised, therefore, that she might now, morning and evening, take four pills.

The sixteenth of November, I observed, that the *scirrhus* was separated into many small soft lumps: and the woman rejoiced at this good success. She had the *menfes* regularly, and did not, during the time of her having them, discontinue the pills; as she did not perceive the least inconvenience from them.

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I prescribed a purge; which operated well: and the swelling of the breast considerably decreased.

I afterwards ordered her to go on with the pills.

On the twenty-fifth of December, she returned to me; the breast was then almost in its natural state; only a small doughy lump remained.

The third of January, the breast had intirely recovered its natural condition.

I then again prescribed a purge: and, from that time, I have never seen the woman.

C A S E IV.

IN the month of August 1758, a girl, eighteen years old, recovered in the hospital from an acute disease; but after she began to regain her strength, she felt a violent pain in her right breast, which had, for about a year and half before, been as hard as a stone.

I prescribed for her pills of gum Ammoniac, Venice soap, sal polychrest, rhubarb, &c.: and Mr. *Haffner* the surgeon applied externally a cataplasm of Venice soap, dissolved in milk.

At first things changed for the better. The breast began to grow soft; and the pains to abate.

But after this, the pains again increased; and the breast became harder, and of a purple colour. At length it grew livid; and after some days, the skin broke; and there was formed a foul ulcer, discharging a considerable quantity of very stinking ichor.

I therefore applied externally the fomentation of the leaves of hemlock; and internally I gave, every morning and evening, three pills, of two grains each.

The pains were much lessened, even the same day, by these remedies.

On the third day, the lividness began to disappear; and thin pus was discharged in the place of the stinking ichor.

The seventh day, the whole breast was of a bright red; the ulcer was clean; the pains, which, in the day-time were slight, grew a little worse towards the evening. The matter in the ulcer now appeared good, and the breast soft.

The fifteenth day, the ulcer seemed disposed to heal; the breast was much softer; and almost of its natural colour; and the pains were slight, or none.

The twentieth day, the breast was less in bulk, and softer; and the ulcer closed.

The twenty-fourth day, excessive pains came on: which began from the time the ulcer was healed up.

The use of opium became necessary to allay the pains.

The twenty-fifth day, the breast became very soft about the nipple; and a small degree of fluctuation was perceptible. At night, opium was again prescribed, on account of the excruciating pains.

I began, besides, to give, from this day, four pills every morning and evening: and the hemlock fomentation was also diligently applied.

The twenty-eighth day, the fluctuation was manifest: and the pains extremely acute. The patient herself

herself requested that the breast might be opened; which I also advising, Mr. *Haffner*, a most industrious surgeon of my hospital, performed it.

A large quantity of matter flowed from the incision; the pains immediately abated; and the whole breast collapsed, excepting in the circumference of the tumour, where some *schirrus* hardness still remained. The colour of the breast was natural.

After this, we used nothing but the pills and the hemlock fomentation: that we might try what these alone could do.

A considerable quantity of matter was every day discharged; and the schirrous remains were so quickly dispersed, that on the fortieth day scarcely any part was left; and the ulcer, being clean, began now to heal.

The fiftieth day, the breast was quite well, and the ulcer firmly cicatrised.

This patient was, therefore, intirely cured by the pills and hemlock fomentation alone; and never felt the smallest inconvenience from the use of them. She had daily well concocted stools, except on those days when she took opium.

At the close, I ordered this patient a purge; which gave her four plentiful stools.

Three days afterwards, the *menfes* came on for the first time, without occasioning any further disturbance; so that, being now perfectly well, she took leave of the hospital.

C A S E V.

A Woman, twenty-eight years of age, six weeks after her last labour, felt a pain and hardness in her right breast; and her child refused to suck it.

At first she applied nothing but a linen cloth, impregnated with aromatics.

When, however, she observed the hardness increase, and the pain grow worse, she applied a plaster to the breast; but it turned red by that treatment; and the pains became so acute, that the poor woman could take no rest, either by night or day.

At length (in the eighth month) she was seized with a fever, attended with great thirst, and a difficulty in breathing. On which account, the mother and the child were both brought into my hospital.

I then determined to separate the child from the mother: but it would neither eat nor drink; and lost its strength by continual crying; though, when it was brought again to the breast, it became quiet; and afterwards slept soundly.

It was necessary, on that account, to let the child suck the mother.

As her fever was great, and her pulse high and hard, I ordered the mother to lose some blood. I applied an emollient cataplasm to the diseased breast: and I gave a resolving nitrous decoction, as well for her common drink, as by way of medicine.

Within two days, the pain in the breast became much easier; and the fever went off intirely.

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I continued the same medicines for three days longer; and then almost all the pains were removed: but the induration remained the same. As the fever did not return any more, I changed the medicines.

Externally I applied a cataplasm of Venice soap, dissolved in milk; and gave, as an internal medicine, the following mixture:

Take of Venice soap, half an ounce: and dissolve it in one pint of elder-flower water. Then add of sal polychrest, one dram; and of syrup of succory, with rhubarb, two ounces and a half. Mix them: and let the patient take one ounce every two hours.

I afterwards administered this mixture for ten days, without intermission: but did not nevertheless, find any change in the breast; and the patient gradually took a disgust to the medicine. Moreover, the glands of the child's neck, though it was otherwise in health, began to swell, and grow hard.

For this reason, I gave to the mother, three pills, to be taken thrice every day: and I ordered, that she should drink an infusion of elder-flowers plentifully after them.

Within three days, I felt the breast softer on the surface; and the patient said, that she breathed more freely; and made more urine than was usual.

Notwithstanding the child continued to suck, it suffered from thence no inconvenience.

In about eight days, I found the *schirrus* in the breast separated into many small parts. The child

was taken with a gentle looseness; and the mother did not make so great a quantity of urine.

The twenty-fourth day, the whole breast was softish, the patient had a good stomach; and went every day regularly to stool as she was wont. The child still continued to have a gentle looseness; but was not weakened by it: and the glands of its neck gradually returned to their natural state.

The twenty-fourth day, the breast was almost well: and the child was not any longer afflicted with the looseness.

The thirtieth day, I gave the mother one dram of choice rhubarb; which operated well: and, after some days, she went with the child from the hospital, both perfectly recovered.

I did not, in this case, increase the dose of the pills: nine every day proved sufficient.

C A S E VI.

A Man, sixty-four years of age, had a most stinking cancer; which eat away every thing from the corner of his mouth quite to his ear. All the remedies he tried, availed nothing. The Peruvian bark itself had no effect.

I gave, therefore, every morning and evening, six pills, with the infusion of elder flowers: and, externally, I applied a diachylon plaster.

The first day, the patient found no relief from it.

The second day, the pains abated: the patient slept at night: and the ulcer was less foetid.

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The third day, the ulcer discharged plentifully an acrid *serum* : and the lips, which were before very much swelled, grew less.

The fourth day, the quantity of *ichor* was less : and the foetid smell but inconsiderable.

The fifth day, a thin *pus* appeared, instead of the *ichor* ; and the ulcer seemed to be pretty clean.

The sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth days, appearances much the same. The pains were slight ; and the patient's appetite good.

The tenth day, the pains increased again ; and the lips of the ulcer were hard, swelled, and very red.

The twelfth day, the *serum* again issued plentifully from the ulcer : by which the pains were mitigated ; and the swelling of the lips diminished.

The thirteenth day, the ulcer was again foul ; diffused a stinking smell ; and excited great pain.

The fourteenth day, I augmented the dose of the pills ; and gave eight, every morning and evening.

The fifteenth day, the ulcer discharged *serum* plentifully ; and the pains abated considerably.

The sixteenth day, good matter was produced : and the patient was free from any pain.

The seventeenth day, the ulcer seemed clean : the *pus* perfectly good ; and the pain was gone off.

The eighteenth day, matters were found in the same state.

The nineteenth day, great pains returned again ; and the lips of the ulcer swelled. On which account, the patient, quite discouraged, went into the country ; and put himself under the care of a quack,
who,

who, by his decoctions and plasters, brought matters to such a pass, that the cancer soon spread itself over almost the whole face. And the poor wretch died in the space of three weeks.

The pills, during their use, checked the progress of the cancer : for it neither gained ground in extent nor depth : but, on discontinuing them, the patient soon grew much worse.

C A S E VII.

A Lady of a noble family in hunting, pushed a gun too forcibly against her right breast.

She did not suffer great pain from the blow : but after a week or two, she perceived in the same breast, a small lump, of about the bigness of a pea. This lump, without giving any pain, increased gradually so much, that it exceeded greatly the size of a wall-nut.

In this state, the lady consulted me : and on examining the case, I immediately gave her three pills every morning and evening.

On the eighth day, she came again to me : but on inspecting the breast, I found no change.

The sixteenth day, the lump appeared soft on the surface. This lady never felt any pain in her breast : but while she took these pills, she had every day two or three loose stools more than usual. Her strength was not however impaired by it ; nor her stomach weakened.

At the end of a month, the lump appeared less in size, softer, and much more moveable.

After

After the second month, the lump was less by almost one half; and soft; for which reason, I advised her to continue the pills regularly: but, from that time, I never saw her again.

She was always well, during the time she took the pills; had the *menfes* regularly; and did not, during the time they were upon her, omit taking the medicine: as she never perceived any harm to result from it.

C A S E VIII.

A Woman, forty-five years of age, came to me, March 23, 1759, having her left breast very large; hard as a stone; immoveable; at first purple, and afterwards livid; and most acutely painful. She could not, moreover, move the arm of the same side, on account of the pain of the breast, and the swelling of the axillary glands: and her respiration, on walking, was short, difficult, and attended with a short cough.

There were indeed all the signs of a latent cancer.

She imputed the cause and origin of this disorder to her husband: who, about a year and an half before, had prest too forcibly on this breast, in bed. From whence soon after a tubercle arose, which had increased to so great a bulk, and turned into a cancer.

Before I administered any medicine to this woman, I took her to the illustrious Baron *Van Swieten*: who, upon examination of the case, acknowledged it to be a difficult one, and proper to become the subject of an experiment: and advised, that I should give her, morning and evening, three pills; and
send

send her to him once every fortnight, that, by this means, he might be certain of the result.

The thirtieth of March, the woman came again to me, and said, that her pains were less; but that, in other respects, the breast remained in its former state.

I ordered then, that she should uncover it: and I saw immediately, the colour of the whole was changed in such manner indeed, that the part, which before was purple, was now of a bright red; and the part, which was livid and blackish, now purple. I also perceived, that, towards the arm-pit, the breast was softer: I, therefore, advised, that she should continue the pills regularly.

On the sixth of April, I took her to the Baron *Van Swieten*: and he was greatly pleased with the good effects of the medicine. For he saw, evidently, the colour, which before was cancerous, was now changed in some places into the natural; in others into a pale red; and was no where, at present, livid. The woman declared, also, that the pains were less; but that her breathing was uneasy, and attended with a short cough as before. The Baron on feeling the breast, found it softer, and less around its whole circumference. On which account, he gave the woman money, to encourage her to persist more willingly in the course.

The thirteenth of April, the breast was still softer, and somewhat less: but, above the nipple, there was a space, three inches long and two broad, which seemed no way changed; and was very red, and immoveable.

I ordered

I ordered then, that the patient should, from this time, take five pills, morning and evening.

The twentieth of April, I waited on the Baron *Van Swieten* with the patient; she complained, that the pains, returning by fits, were acutely pungent, gnawing, and burning. Her cough was somewhat more frequent; and she said, that she perceived, in coughing, a greater pain in her breast; and that her lungs adhered, as it were, to it in such manner, as to draw it then inwards.

With respect to other matters, a part of the breast, towards the arm-pit, of six inches breadth, was entirely in its natural state, as to softness, colour, and magnitude. On which account the Baron *Van Swieten* said, that the hardness of the breast had melted like ice.

The swelling above the nipple remained, nevertheless, yet unchanged.

In order to loosen the dry cough, I prescribed, besides the pills, a decoction of the roots and flowers of marshmallows; with the syrup of the same.

The twenty-seventh of April, the patient complained of the same cough and pains; but she observed, that she could contract the *thorax* much closer, than a fortnight before; and concluded thence, that the breast was less.

We persevered, therefore, in the dose of the pills, and the use of the decoction.

The fourth of May, we again went to the Baron *Van Swieten*. The breast was less, and softer, except the indurated part, which cohered firmly with the ribs above the nipple.

The

The twenty-eighth of May, the patient was better; the cough was less troublesome, the pains moderate, and the breast softer. The indurated part above the nipple continued in the same state; but the cough began to discharge a viscid phlegm.

On the first of June, the Baron *Van Swieten* had great satisfaction, in seeing the breast was grown less by two thirds.

But the patient complained of pains, and a troublesome cough at night. On which account the Baron advised, that a dose of the mals for pills, prepared of hounds tongue, might be given her at bed-time.

The twenty-fifth of June, the patient returned, rejoicing, that she had slept well, and seldom coughed; that almost all her pains were gone; and that her respiration was free. What she spit was purulent.

The indurated part above the breast began also to grow softer.

The twenty-ninth of June, the patient found her breathing to become still freer, and she discharged with ease the purulent spittle: but the induration above the nipple was nearly in the same state. For which reason, I applied externally the fomentation of the leaves of hemlock.

The thirteenth of July, she came again; complaining, that the indurated part above the breast began to be ulcerated, by the use of the fomentation.

In examining the breast, I perceived, that the *epidermis* had separated for a small space; that the
skin

skin was broken ; and that an acrid *ichor* issued from that part.

But on inquiring more particularly into the cause, the patient confessed, that, feeling a disagreeable itching and tingling in her breast, she had scratched the indurated part of it with her nails, and rubbed it hard with her shift ; and, from that time, had felt a violent burning ; and an oozing of *ichor*.

I ordered the fomentation to be continued : and gave her the Pills morning and evening.

The twentieth of July, a pretty deep ulcer was formed : of which the lips were livid ; and the *ichor* extremely foetid. The patient had also greater pains ; and spit up matter.

The twenty-seventh of July, the ulcer was still deeper ; but the pains were abated. The *ichor*, which was discharged, stunk ; and no *pus* was produced : but a broad hard foetid core, like leather, grew out of the ulcer : from whence it seemed, that the hard part above the nipple, which till this time resisted every thing, diminished now by sloughing.

The purulent spittle was discharged in a large quantity : but the cough occasioned a tension, and great pain in the ulcer.

The lips of the ulcer recovered again gradually their natural colour.

I received the patient in this condition into my hospital.

Mr. *Hoffman*, the surgeon, dressed her twice every day ; and filled the ulcer with lint moistened in the infusion of hemlock ; several sloughs like leather
were

were daily thrown off: and the swelling much diminished. The patient had no pain; she slept without opium; but coughed frequently through the day; and spit purulent matter.

The fifth of August, *pus* began to appear in the ulcer: almost all the bad smell went off: and the hard part diminished by suppuration. The lips of the ulcer were clean, and of a good colour. The strength of the patient was not defective: she expectorated freely, and breathed much easier.

The sixteenth of August I took her again with me to the Baron *Van Swieten*; he was surprised that the *schirrus*, before so obstinate, diminished now by a kindly suppuration; and afforded the greatest hopes, that the remaining small hard part, being dissolved, the ulcer would heal up of itself.

Every thing succeeded extremely well: and accordingly the ulcer gave many signs that it would soon be healed.

The twenty-fourth of August, the patient complained again of a frequent cough; and great pains occasioned by it in the breast, which she said was, as it were, bound with a cord, that in coughing drew it to the hollow of her chest, with the most acute pain. From thence her nights were again disturbed; and it was, therefore, requisite to have recourse to opium.

On the use of the opium, the patient grew better: had a good stomach; increased in her strength; was less troubled with the cough; and spit up the purulent matter easily.

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The second of September, about eight in the morning, I saw her in a good way, got out of bed, and walking about; and she neither complained of any pain or cough.

On the same morning, a quantity of wine was privately brought to her by some friends: and when they were gone, she drank freely of it, with her stomach yet empty. From whence she was seized with a giddiness, and vomiting; fell down; and, within a few minutes after, died apoplectic.

We found many varicose veins in the *dura* and *pia mater*: and the *cerebellum* was compressed with a large quantity of grumous blood.

The whole middle lobe of the lungs on the left side was schirrous and heavy: but the upper lobe partly schirrous, and partly suppurated.

These two lobes strongly adhered to the fore-part of the *pleura*; and would not admit of being separated without tearing.

The ulcer was clean, the muscles of the breast intirely sound, and the lips of the ulcer were perfectly well coloured; and had begun again to unite with the contiguous parts, and almost to join with each other. From all which, there was no room to doubt, but that the ulcer would have been intirely cured.

C A S E IX.

A Young woman, aged twenty-three, had had for two years the glands swelled, and schirrous; round her whole neck; from whence it was grown almost as thick as her head.

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Many of these glands were exceded by cancerous ulcers.

The patient not having found the least relief from a great variety of medicines, administered by different physicians and surgeons, at last came into our hospital.

Mr. *Haffner*, an expert surgeon, applied, and used every thing externally, which his art could dictate.

I administered besides, decoctions in large quantity; and pills from the ferulaceous gums, the resin of guaiacum, Venice soap, *terra foliata tartari*, the mass of pills from the cathartic extract, &c.

For six weeks, these medicines were regularly continued; but yet I did not perceive any amendment in the disorder.

The ulcers continually wept a foetid and malignant *ichor*: and the ichorous matter corroded the cellular membrane, and produced deep sinusses, and fistulas.

On duly considering the case, I gave her the malt spirit with mercury sublimite.

But this, though she drank a large quantity of decoction with it, occasioned pains in her breast: and she began to cough, and complained of a heat in the *sternum*.

I continued, nevertheless, the use of the malt spirit for a month: as the complaints brought on by the use of it, very soon became milder: but then a slight Salivation came on without yielding any relief.

On

On this account, I left off the use of that remedy; and, applying externally the hemlock fomentation, gave thrice a day four of the pills; and with them an infusion of ground-ivy, male speedwell, agrimony, &c.

The sixth day, the pains were abated: the lividness of the ulcerated glands was turned into a pale red, the *ichor* disappeared; and thin matter succeeded it.

The tenth day, the swelling of the neck and glands was much less; the ulcer pretty clean; and the matter good. The patient, moreover, slept well; had a good stomach; and was free from pain.

On the twenty-first day, some of the ulcers were healed up; the swelling of the neck was much less; many of the glands had regained their natural state; and the sinusses were less deep.

I ordered then, that the patient should take six pills, thrice every day.

The thirty-second day, every thing seemed to be better: most of the sinusses were closed; except that two large callous fistulas remained on the left side. These however, being cut, according to the practice of surgeons, were cured by the same fomentation, and the pills, within a fortnight: by which time nearly all the glands were restored to their natural state; and the schirrous hardness could not any longer be felt; only a few softish tubercles being now perceptible.

I gave the patient then a purge, of half a dram of rhubarb, eight grains of scammony, and fifteen

grains of sal polychrest: which worked six times without weakning her.

After this, she took for two weeks, six pills, thrice a day: but nothing was now applied externally.

At the expiration of these two weeks, she got perfectly well. This patient had the *menfes*, during the whole time, at the regular periods: and the pills did not produce any disorder.

I kept her, after she was cured, for three weeks longer in the hospital; that I might see, whether the swellings of the glands would return: or whether any of the sinusses, if prematurely closed, would again break open.

But she remained perfectly well: and I therefore dismissed her from the hospital; after desiring her to come back to me, if the least swelling should appear.

It is, however, now seven months since; and I have seen nothing of her.

C A S E X.

IN a girl, eighteen years of age, the submaxillary glands were become wholly schirrous; and some of them were almost as large as a hen's egg.

I immediately prescribed her six pills morning and evening: which she took for a whole month without almost any effect.

The sixth week, the tumours first began to soften, and grow less.

Afterwards, a doughy softness was observable throughout the whole of them.

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The seventh week, I began to give her six pills, thrice every twenty-four hours; and I joined to them, every eight days, a purge of rhubarb.

By this method, the patient was perfectly cured in the space of three months.

C A S E XI.

A Woman, aged sixty-seven, for two years had a foetid running cancer in her left breast: which was of so great an extent, that the superior extremity reached almost to the lower jaw; and the inferior went down quite to her belly.

The Baron *Van Swieten*, Dr. *Dietman* the Dean, Dr. *Glasser* professor of anatomy, Dr. *Faus* professor of surgery, and others, who were examiners in the surgery-chamber of the university, first saw this poor creature, and sent her to me, on the twentieth day of June, 1759.

The whole breast was of a brownish black colour, and full of lumps. The *ichor* stunk most abominably, even at a great distance; and the patient could neither eat nor sleep for the pain.

I ordered, that she should take four pills, morning and evening; and I applied externally, in the day time, the fomentation of the leaves of hemlock; and, at night, a diachylon plaster.

The twenty-eighth of June, she came again, and told me, with great joy; that she did not at present feel much pain; that she slept soundly at night; and did not perceive the bad smell so great as before.

On examining her breast, I observed a thin *pus* instead of the *ichor*.

The sixth of July, the colour of the breast was reddish, the matter laudable; its bulk less; and the *factor* inconsiderable. The patient promised that she would strictly continue the course, and expressed abundance of acknowledgments.

The fourteenth of July, the size of the cancer was still less, the discharge good, the stench gone, the colour mended; the patient said also, that, in the mean time, a great many sloughs which separated from the breasts had fallen off: and that every other, or every third day, a large quantity of *serum* was discharged from the breast; which was visibly reduced in size.

The twenty-second of July, all things were still more amended: and the patient complained of no inconvenience.

After this, I took her again to the chamber of the the university, while the physicians were examining there.

The Baron *Van Swieten*, the Dean, and all the professors of physick, who had before seen this poor woman, were greatly surpris'd at the extraordinary effect; and sudden change: [for the breast was quite of its right colour; the stink almost gone; the *pus* good; and the bulk of the cancer less by one half.

The Baron *Van Swieten* then gave the patient money; and advis'd her, in the most good natured manner, to persevere regularly in the course.

The

The third of August, the breast seemed to be grown still less. But the patient was disturbed, at night, with pains, that came on towards the evening. This rendered a paregoric necessary : which removed all complaints.

The fomentation, and the pills, were continued constantly in the same dose.

The twenty-fifth of August, the cancerous breast was not much bigger than a man's fist : the *pus* was good : the smell gone off : and the strength of the patient, considering her age, as it ought to be.

The twenty-sixth of August, we again went to the Baron *Van Swieten* : who saw that every thing was in a good way ; and was much satisfied therewith, expressing his hope, that in a few weeks, if things continued to go on so, the cancer would be wholly dissolved.

The second of September, the patient was well in all respects : and the cancer was not now so big as a man's fist.

The sixth of September, she sent to me, to inform me, that sitting early the same morning in the street to sell fruit, she felt, from a strong blast of wind, a very great chiliness, in every part of her body : and that soon after, she was seized with excruciating pains in her belly, followed by a violent and painful purging, which had much weakened her.

I ordered then, that she should leave off the pills ; and I prescribed other medicines suitable to such a disorder.

The next morning, she sent to let me know, that the looseness and pains were the same ; that she voided

ded blood with her stools ; that her thirst was great ; and that she had frequent faintings.

On this account, I and Mr. *Laber* the surgeon, went to her the same morning : and I administered, both internally and externally, with the greatest attention, whatsoever I believed could be of any service : but all was in vain.

The third day, her face appeared like that of a corpse : and the fourth she died.

Mr. *Laber* cut off her breast after she was dead ; and carried it to the chamber of the university, during the medicinal examination.

The Baron *Van Swieten*, and all the professors of medicine, saw the quick, and extraordinary good effect of the remedy, in this desperate case : and were, consequently, mortified, that the successful progress of the experiment had been frustrated by the accidental death of the patient.

C A S E XII.

ON the fourth day of April 1759, professor *De Haen* sent a woman to me : whose neck was full of innumerable schirruses ; of which many were turned into malignant ulcers.

Her whole left breast was also schirrous : and the part near the arm-pit was grown of a livid and purple colour : from whence, through a small orifice, a great quantity of burning, and corrosive ichor issued out.

Besides these, she had also many schirruses of different sizes, both in the arm-pits, and the groin.

I im-

I immediately gave this woman four pills, thrice every day; with an infusion of the male speedwell, to be drunk after it.

The fourteenth, the patient came again to me; and said, that, by the use of the pills, the ulcerated schirruses discharged a much greater quantity of *ichor*: but that it did not excite the smallest degree of heat upon the skin.

The colour of the schirruses, before livid, were now natural, or of a pale red. Their magnitude was also less; and both her neck, and the glands, were more moveable.

The patient also felt herself easier in the arm-pits: for she could move her arms more freely; and bring them close to her body without pain, which she could not do before.

The livid colour almost wholly disappeared in the breast; which was softer, and less in bulk: and good matter was discharged from the small opening in it.

I thought it proper, still to continue the same dose of the pills: and I delivered to her such a quantity, as might be sufficient for three weeks; that, as she lived at a great distance, she might not have occasion to come so often.

When she had taken these pills, she came to me again. Many of the schirruses were now intirely gone away; several of the ulcers were firmly cicatrized: the tubercles in the arm-pits, and the groin, were become very small, and were all moveable, and free from pain; and the breast was almost in its natural state, both as to size and hardness; and very little *pus* could be pressed from the orifice.

I gave

I gave her then, the quantity of pills that would serve a whole month : but I did not increase the dose.

At the end of the month, she came back to me ; and asked me, whether she ought to continue the pills any longer or not ; since she did not perceive in the neck, arm-pits, groin, or breast, any pain, or other disorder ; as the ulcers were all healed ; and the schirrusses grown so small, that she could bear them now without the least trouble.

When I examined the breast, I found it intirely in its natural state : the orifice was firmly closed ; and the lump, towards the arm-pit, felt scarcely distinguishable, on account of its smallness.

The ulcers of the neck were quite healed : and the schirrusses were either gone away, or become so small, that not a seventh part remained.

In the arm-pits, indeed, one or two small lumps, of about the bigness of a pea, were found ; but every thing else was soft, and in its natural state.

The patient said, that all the swellings had disappeared in her groin : and that, now, she could walk as freely as ever.

I gave her again the quantity of pills for a month : and I bid her return to me when she had taken them ; but she never came any more.

C A S E XIII,

A Girl, eighteen years of age, had had, for many years, the parotids, submaxillary glands, and whole neck schirrous ; and so much swelled, that it was grown much thicker than her head.

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The medicines prescribed by the most skilful physicians, and surgeons, had done her no service.

On the contrary, several parts began to grow livid; to be excessively painful; and at last to turn into cancerous foetid ulcers. Nocturnal sweats, loss of strength, and a gradual wasting, also came on.

Notwithstanding the girl was much beloved by those, in whose service she lived, yet it was necessary, on account of the shocking ulcers, the great and malignant stench, and the danger of contagion, to remove her into our hospital.

Mr. *Haffner* the surgeon, and I, found, among the ulcers and schirruses, innumerable sinusses, and fistulas; and the patient was, moreover, very weak; and complained, that she could not get any sleep on account of pains in the night.

It was requisite, on this account, to give opium towards evening.

I then gave her twice every day three of the pills, with an infusion of ground-ivy, scabious, male speedwell, and a large quantity of milk. Externally we applied the hemlock fomentation.

The third day, the pains were much easier, and the *ichor* discharged plentifully. It was acrid, indeed, but not so stinking. The patient's neck also seemed somewhat less swelled.

The eighth day there appeared a little good matter; several of the glands were become moveable; and the patient began to sleep without opium. The night sweats were also less profuse.

On

On the fourteenth day, the matter was good in almost every part; and the schirrous tumours less.

I increased, then, the dose of the pills; and gave four morning and evening. The hemlock fomentation was also diligently applied.

The thirtieth day, the nocturnal sweats were wholly gone off: many of the sinusses were closed: the ulcers were of a perfectly good colour: and some were even disposed to heal. There remained, nevertheless, three callous fistulas, which required to be cut according to the practice of surgeons.

On the forty-fourth day, some of the ulcers were healed: and the rest yielded good matter. The swelling of the neck was much less: and the patient had recovered both her appetite, and her strength.

The sixtieth day, nearly all the ulcers were closed: the swelling of the neck was gone down: the skin had regained its natural colour: and all the glands were less, and moveable. But, above the left clavicle, there was a *schirrus*, bigger than a goose's egg, which sounded like a cartilage on being struck. This tumour had not suffered the least change, during the whole time the medicines had been used.

The seventy-fourth day, many of the schirruses were found divided into several small portions. One gland, in the left part of the neck, broke out again into an ulcer; and discharged purulent matter for three days. After which the whole bag collapsed; and within a few days a *cicatrix* was formed.

The ninetieth day, the neck had regained its natural colour and magnitude; not a tenth part of the swelling remaining now. The *schirrus*, above the clavicle,

vicle, continued, nevertheless, in the same state: and, as it was immoveable, and resisted all the powers of medicines, we thought it adviseable to cut it out. But the patient would not consent: and, as she had now recovered her strength, and could move her neck easily, she went from the hospital home.

For two months, she omitted taking any medicines: during all which time, the schirruses neither became bigger, nor less.

At length she came to me again, to ask whether she might not take the pills, in the house where she was a servant.

I readily advised her to it; and gave her some, to be taken, three every morning and evening.

After three weeks, having finished the pills, she came back to me; the schirruses were then become less and moveable.

At the end of the fifth week, she returned again; and shewed me, with great joy, that the schirrus above the clavicle, hitherto so obstinate, and which we before believed to be cartilaginous, was now less, and divided into six small lumps.

I was surpris'd to see the effect, I had so long wish'd for: and I advis'd, that she should now take four pills, morning and evening.

After a month, I saw her again: and every thing was grown better.

She has now us'd these pills five months: and, at present, takes six thrice every day. She is strong, sleeps well; breathes freely, which before she could not; enjoys a good appetite; and has every day a natural

natural and well concocted stool. All things promise a slow, indeed, but yet perfect recovery.

C A S E XIV.

ON the twelfth day of September, a woman came to me, about forty years of age, whose right breast had been swelled for six weeks before; and was now become *schirrous*.

Doctor *Collin* a physician, who was then with me, saw this woman at the same time.

I gave her at first three pills, thrice every twenty-four hours; and I ordered that she should come again to me at the end of eight days.

She returned then greatly encouraged; because the *schirrus* was softer, and moveable.

I advised her, therefore, to persevere strictly in the course.

Three days after, I contrived, that Dr. *Collin* should be again present when she came to me; who was greatly surprised at the quick effect the medicine had on this woman: for more than half of the *schirrus* was gone away.

I then delivered to her a sufficient quantity of the pills to serve for a whole month; that, as she lived at a great distance, she might not be obliged to come to me so frequently.

When she had taken these pills, the *schirrus* was scarcely bigger than an egg.

I ordered her at that time a purge; and supplied her with pills for another month.

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At the end of that month, I expected, and was very desirous to see her : but she never came to me again.

C A S E XV.

A Man, fifty-three years of age, by lying with an infected woman, contracted the venereal disease : which partly from shame, and partly from indigence, he neglected.

At length the left testicle swelled, grew excessively painful ; and became wholly schirrous : and the *penis* increased so much in bulk, as to far exceed that of a horse.

At last, fungous excrescences arose in three places on the *penis* : and, in a short time, became cancerous and extremely foetid.

The *scrotum* itself was, likewise, exceded by a cancerous ulcer : and the left testicle, being wholly laid bare, hung out of the *scrotum* in an ulcerated cancerous state.

Hence the poor man could neither lie down, nor sleep, on account of the pain : much less was he able to walk.

In these most deplorable circumstances he was taken into our hospital.

Mr. *Haffner*, the surgeon, and I, were intolerably annoyed with the stench, while we examined the parts. The left testicle, hanging out of the *scrotum*, was wholly cancerous ; and more than twice as big as a man's fist.

Neither the *penis*, *scrotum*, nor testicle, could bear to be touched with the least force ; for it immediately

ately occasioned a great quantity of blood to issue out.

The patient frequently fainted from weakness: and the stench was so great, that we could not let him stay with the other patients; but were obliged to put him in a separate room.

At first, I gave him, every day, one ounce and a half of the Peruvian bark: that, by this means, I might correct the acrimony, and procure a separation of the corrupted part from the sound.

But the fourth day, he refused absolutely to take the bark any longer, in whatever form it was administered: nor did we, indeed, perceive any relief or change from it: but, on the contrary, he declined in strength; and intirely lost his appetite.

In this desperate case, I determined to try the pills, and hemlock fomentation.

At first, I gave him six pills thrice every day: and I made him foment diligently the parts affected.

The pains abated the very same evening: and the poor man began to sleep naturally.

The next day, many putrid foughs separated; the swelling of the penis abated; and the bad smell was considerably less.

The third day, every thing appeared to be still better.

The fourth day, the pus was good in all the cancerous ulcers: the penis was less by one half: the testicle was also diminished in size, and softer: the ulcers had a kindly colour: and the patient slept without opiates; and began to have some appetite.

The

The eighth day, the *penis* was almost reduced to its natural size : the cancerous parts were much mended : the *pus* continued every where to be good : great floughs separated from the *scrotum* : and the testicle was soft ; and scarcely bigger than an egg.

The twelfth day, every thing appeared to be still mending.

The eighteenth day, no remains of the cancer could be seen ; the testicle recovered its natural size, and colour : and what had been eaten away by the cancerous ulcer, appeared to be growing again.

The lips of the *scrotum*, which were now of a perfectly good colour, began to unite : there appeared on the *penis*, in the place of the cancerous excrescences, flat ulcers that were very clean : and the patient was better in all respects ; and had more strength.

I went on, therefore, to the thirtieth day with the same dose of these pills, and the hemlock fomentation : and then the *scrotum* was intirely healed : and the ulcers on the *penis* much less and clean.

But the patient, towards the evening, complaining of being continually troubled with a disagreeable itching all over his body : lest any thing venereal, lurking in the blood, should produce fresh scenes of distress, I finished the cure by antivenereal remedies.

In this case the pills, and fomentation, had been of greater service than could ever have been expected.

Dr. Kollman, physician to the army ; Mr. Laber, surgeon of the city hospital ; brother Abdon, surgeon

geon among the brethren of the *mercy* in Leopoldina : and others of my friends of the profession, whom I took to see this patient, were greatly surprised at the quick, and scarcely to be hoped for effects of the medicine.

C A S E XVI.

A Woman, thirty-six years of age, had, from some unknown cause, two fistulous ulcers on the left side of her neck ; which produced so many, and such extraordinary sinusses, that Mr. *Haffner* could introduce his probe as far as the tongue, the *sternum*, and, between the gullet and windpipe, to the opposite part of the neck : and what was still more remarkable, these sinusses had spread themselves over the whole *thorax*.

For when injections were thrown, according to the practice of surgeons, into the fistulas, the patient felt them penetrate, in the forepart, to the pit of the stomach : and in the hinder part even to the loins.

This was readily believed by the surgeon : for, in order to fill the sinusses, six ounces of the injection was, for the most part, necessary.

We tried every thing that appeared feasible to us, or that the best authors had recommended in similar cases, to cure this disease.

But intirely without effect : for, after harassing the poor patient for six whole months, with various decoctions, injections, fomentations, and other medicines, excessive pains came on ; and her body began to be in a wasting condition.

For

For this reason, Mr. *Haffner*, and I, resolved to try this patient with the hemlock.

We therefore stuped the whole neck and back with the fomentation.

Mr. *Haffner* injected, also, the fistulas and sinusses with a weak infusion of the hemlock, twice every day.

The patient took, moreover, morning and evening, six of the pills.

From the very first, the pains were allayed: and the patient slept without opium; which before she had not been able to do.

The third day, the surgeon found, that the fistulas took a less quantity of the injection.

The tenth day, the patient found herself much better: and every thing seemed to be healing.

The fourteenth day, scarcely two ounces of the injection could be thrown in.

The patient complained of tension in the back, heat in the *sternum*, and dryness in the throat.

I therefore advised that the surgeon should leave off injecting the infusion of hemlock; and only use, in its place, a decoction of barley, very gently thrown in.

This being done, within three days after, every thing was healed; and the fistulas were firmly cicatrized.

This woman continued in the hospital six weeks afterwards; without having the least return of her disorder.

C A S E XVII.

A Man, who complained of an induration in the anterior part of the *abdomen*, of the length of a span, and the breadth of half a span, from the sudden suppression of a quartan, was cured intirely in my hospital, within the space of four months, by only using these pills, with purges at proper intervals.

I had, likewise, two other similar cases in my hospital at the same time, effectually cured by the pills.

The same even dissolved a *schirrus* of the liver; and cured the jaundice caused by it: but a large quantity of whey was drunk along with them.

When, however, after intermittent fevers, the spleen is enlarged, and its substance becomes spongy, the pills conduce little to the cure: nor indeed do any other medicines do much good under such circumstances.

C A S E XVIII.

IN the case of a man, fifty years of age, blind with cataracts in both eyes, and recovering from an acute disease in my hospital, the pills had so great an effect, that, in two months, he could not only see to walk, but could distinguish objects and colours.

C A S E

C A S E XIX.

IN a girl, aged twenty-two, the sight was rendered so imperfect by beginning cataracts in both eyes, that, without the greatest care, she could scarcely walk alone.

By the use of the pills, however, in ten weeks, the cataracts were intirely disperfed; and her sight was so well recovered, that she could thread the smallest needle; and spin in the greatest perfection.

Mr. *Laber* took this girl to the Baron *Van Swieten*, that he might hear a relation of the case, and see the effect of the medecine.

C A S E XX.

A Woman, twenty-five years old, had a schirrous *struma*; which not only covered the forepart of her neck, but extended itself into the cavity of the breast, and occasioned a difficulty of breathing.

By the use of the pills, in the space of four months, the *struma* was consumed, partly by suppuration, and partly by a gentle discussion; and the respiration rendered intirely free.

At the same time, she was cured of a deep and malignant ulcer in the left thigh; which had resisted the power of every application; and baffled, for more than half a year, all the endeavours of the diligent Mr. *Haffner*, surgeon of my hospital.

These are trials, which I have made with complete success. I could mention others, indeed; but as they are not yet brought to a conclusion, I chuse rather to pass them over in silence.

That my experiments may not, however, stand alone; and that I may not seem to rest the whole of a matter that concerns myself, on my own testimony; it is proper to give an account of others, that were made by men of the greatest character in the profession.

There were three sisters; two of whom were suffocated by swelled and schirrous glands in the neck. The third, Baron *Van Swieten* saved, and cured by these pills.

In a similar case, where art had been in vain almost exhausted of resources, and where even the force of electricity had been applied without success, Dr. *Kestler*, one of the principal physicians to her imperial majesty, produced most extraordinary effects by the use of these pills. Nor were they attended by any bad symptom; though, for a long time, he gave the patient every day thirty pills, of two grains each.

In the military hospital at *Leopoldina* in *Vienna*, there was a soldier, who had a *schirrus* of the right parotid so large, that it covered all the side of his face quite to his eye.

This *schirrus*, accompanied with the greatest pain, a livid and blackish colour, and others the worst symptoms, portending a very bad cancer: and a consumption in consequence of it.

Dr.

Dr. *John Kollman*, physician to the army, who had the care of this hospital, had recourse then to my pills : and applied externally the hemlock fomentation.

By which means, he not only, in a short time, removed all danger of a cancer ; but dispersed in a few weeks, nearly the whole schirrous swelling.

The honest soldier, not regarding, as of any consequence, the small remains of the *schirrus*, would not continue any longer in the hospital ; but went from thence to the army intirely well in all other respects.

A lady of great quality concealed an occult cancer in both her breasts, for three years.

At length the pains became intolerably acute ; and from thence tubercles of a livid colour were produced in the breast, which presaged a cancerous ulceration of the worse kind.

Being greatly alarmed with this, she sent for Dr. *Joseph Pock*, a physician who practises in this city ; and discovered her disorder to him ; who, on seeing the case, immediately concluded to give her my pills : which proved so efficacious, that, within three weeks, not only all her pains ceased ; but both the blackish and livid colour disappeared ; and the natural returned.

After some days, the tubercles grew less.

In the space of six weeks, the hardness on the surface of the breast began to soften.

In two months more, the large indurated part divided into several small lumps ; which, on taking a purge, went away ; and the whole bulk of the breast grew less.

This lady, seeing such evident good effects from them, took the pills with the greatest regularity, and confidence; and attested, that she not only found so great relief with respect to her breast, from the use of them; but that she was also freed by them from vomitings and the heart-burn, with which she was before troubled several times every day; and also from rheumatic pains, to which she was frequently subject.

In this most successful progress of the experiment, an acute inflammatory disease came on; which proved fatal.

The blood, taken from the veins several times, in this acute disease, was always rich; and very thick. Whence it appears, there is no reason for apprehending, that these pills cause a putrid colliquation of the blood.

This lady took thirty pills every day, for many weeks; and never complained of any inconvenience from them.

Mr. *Ferdinand Laber*, surgeon to the city hospital, who merits the greatest regard, not only for his eminent abilities in his profession, but from his readiness to exert them, as well in favour of the poor, as rich, made many experiments, likewise, with these pills.

He discussed the most obdurate schirruses, in various parts of the body.

He did service in many cancers, not only of the breast; but also of the face, eyes, nose, &c.; and some he intirely cured.

He

He shewed all his patients, while under cure by this method, to the Baron *Van Swieten*, that he might be a witness of the effect.

Mr. *Laber* also gave these pills, with success, in various disorders of the eyes: but where the disease was of long standing, they were for the most part of small service. It may nevertheless be expedient to try them in such cases.

It is an observation, however, made by Mr. *Laber*, as well as myself, that none of those who used the pills for cataracts, or any other thickning of the humours of the eyes, grew worse; though they were not cured.

Hence it appears, that the pills at least check the further progress of these kinds of disorders: and experience has taught, that in such cases, two, taken every morning and evening, are sufficient.

But the effect is sometimes extremely slow; and does not become sensible before the third or fourth month. Whence success is not to be despaired of, though no change be found in a few weeks.

While I am writing this, a woman of about thirty years of age is come to me, who was first sent by *Rechtberger*, surgeon of *Saint Mark's* hospital, about three months ago.

This woman had a *scirrus* in her breast for some years; which, by the use of various medications, began to pain her violently, and to threaten a cancer.

On considering her case, I gave her at that time three pills thrice every day.

Within a few days the pains abated: but the *scirrus* remained unchanged.

I increased gradually the dose of the pills, till the patient took every day eight: in this manner she went on for eleven weeks: when I still found, that no change was brought about in the *schirrus*.

From hence I doubted much of success: but the patient, satisfied with having her pains removed, took the pills with great regularity.

The thirteenth week, the *schirrus* began to soften, separate, and be dissolved so suddenly, that, in the space of ten days, scarce more than a twelfth part remained; and the remains, on being felt, appeared soft and paste-like.



C H A P. III.

C O R O L L A R I E S.

Corollary 1) **F**ROM the above premises, it may be inferred, that a medicine highly innocent may be prepared from the juice of hemlock, inspissated by a slow fire; and which, in every habit of body, sex, age, &c. may be given in considerably large doses.

2) That this remedy does not hinder any of the natural functions of the body, the secretions, nor the excretions.

3) That it acts in an insensible manner; neither exciting stool, vomit, urine, nor sweat.

4) That it dissolves indurations, and schirruses; even in those cases, where other medicines, the most penetrating, are of no service.

It is, therefore, a medicine highly discutient.

5) That

5) That what indurations, and schirrusses, it does not discuss, it brings, for the most part, to a kindly suppuration.

6) That it stops the further progress of cancers.

7) That it corrects cancerous acrimony; and removes the bad smell.

8) That it converts the cancerous *icbor* into good *pus*.

9) That it quiets pains.

10) That it cures cancers.

11) That it heals ulcers, incurable by other means.

12) That it closes, and consolidates, such fistulas, and sinusses, as resist all other remedies.

13) That it disperses œdematous tumours, even by external application.

14) That it sometimes restores the sight when taken away by cataracts, that are not of long standing.

15) That it removes, or, at least, stops, the further progress of recent cataracts.

A D M O N I T I O N S.

1st) **T**HAT women who are afflicted with cancers or schirrusses avoid great exercise, and all brisk motions of the body.

2d) That country air, and gentle exercise, promote the cure.

3d) That anger, grief, and sudden fright, do harm.

4th) That acid, vinous, and austere substances, are injurious; as are also farinaceous, crude, and unfermented.

5th) That

5th) That attrition, friction, and pressure, are hurtful in schirruses of long standing ; and in cancers.

Hence hard and tight stays, and rough shifts, must be avoided.

6th) That violent coughing is injurious. For it irritates the cancers, and makes them worse ; causes hæmorrhages ; and impairs the strength : by which means it retards the cure ; and renders it almost impossible.

Women, who have a difficulty of respiration, and shortness of breath, and who, in coughing, feel very acute pains in the schirrous, or cancerous breast, attended with a violent constriction of the breast, as if it were pulled into the chest by the action of coughing, have, for the most part, the lungs schirrous, and strongly cohering in that part with the *pleura*.

Hence a more difficult, if not impossible, cure.

I have learnt from experience, that these pills are not in the least injurious in consumptive cases : nor do they hinder expectoration ; but rather promote it.

Q U E R I E S.

I HAVE hitherto, in a great variety of cases, tried the juice of hemlock, reduced to pills, alone ; that, by this means, I might accurately inform myself what it could simply and solely perform.

But sometimes, I have found a quick effect ; and, at other times, a very slow one. May it not therefore

fore be questioned: whether, in cases where its action is slow, the effect may not be accelerated by external remedies applied in various manners?

Query 1st) Whether it may not be proper to apply, several times in the day, the hot vapours of the decoction of hemlock to the part affected?

Query 2d) Whether, perhaps, it may not be more effectual to keep a cataplasm prepared from hemlock continually on the diseased part?

Many trials demonstrate, that such a fomentation is highly efficacious, in these circumstances.

There are, nevertheless, patients, who cannot bear this when laid on the naked skin. Whence,

Query 3d) Whether it is not better to cover the skin of such patients with a diachylon plaster; and then to apply the cataplasm?

Query 4th) Whether, while it is allowable to irritate the *schirrus*, it would not be of advantage, to put on a plaster of hemlock and labdanum, or galbanum?

Query 5th) Whether it is not requisite, that purges should be given to patients using the pills, where their strength appears to admit of it; as the resolved matter is not discharged by any sensible evacuation?

Trials, respecting this query, made on several patients, seem to authorize the practice. It is not, however, absolutely necessary.

Query 6th) If cases occur, in which malignant cancers send forth very deep roots, corrupt all the humours, and debilitate the solids, in such manner, that the pills alone cannot suffice; whether then
would

would it not be proper to join the Peruvian bark to them? As, by this means, perhaps a medicine, imbued with the virtue of both might be prepared, fully capable of answering every intention of cure.

It is necessary, therefore, that every physician should adapt the method of cure to the concomitant symptoms, by his own proper observation and judgment.

On the merits of what has been premised, I beg of all physicians whatever, that they will try and administer this extract on every occasion that shall present itself. But I intreat, that, at the same time, they will lay aside every kind of prejudice and jealousy; from the consideration, how much the good of mankind is therein concerned.

If the use of it should at any time be attended with any bad consequences, let them inquire carefully, whether it arises from the irresistible violence of the disease, from any mistake made by the patients, or those about them, or from the medicine itself; and let them not, from thence, condemn the remedy as hurtful, or inefficacious, without the strictest examination of the facts, and the maturest judgment thereon. But if, after all, they know any better remedies, I do not desire they should neglect them in favour of this.

F I N I S;

